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# The **ACES** Club

Our Monthly Newsletter: April 2022

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## President's Report

Dear Reader,

On behalf of ACES, I would like to thank the many Australians and Americans who joined via Zoom our first ever online conference. Your presence and participation fill us with joy and courage to continue our long and arduous journey.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the CiRCE Institute for kindly hosting this international conference. I pay homage to Andrew Kern, Dr Matthew Bianco and Andrea Lipinski from the CiRCE leadership team. This two-day conference would not have been possible without the many sponsors (Belmont Abbey College, Roman Roads Press, New College Franklin, Classic Learning Test, Classical Academic Press). It would be remiss of me not to also sincerely thank our distinguished Australian speakers: Dr Kevin Donnelly, Dr David Daintree and Dr Paul Morrissey.



Throughout the two days Australians were refreshed and nourished with what education is really all about. The words truth, goodness and beauty were repeatedly mentioned as we explored classical education. Our hearts were set on fire as our current perceptions of education were challenged. Recordings of the presentations

are now available online: <https://vimeo.com/user/3950516/folder/9902202>.

Australia our work has just begun. ACES needs your help, your support and above all your prayers. God willing we hope to organise more conferences and engage in more dialogue with others as we seek to transform the lives of Australians. Our project has no end date. May God bless each one of you.

As ACES moves forwards, I would like to invite each one of you to consider joining one or more of our focus groups for 2022. These are as follows:

1) **Classical Education Reading Group:** The objective of this group is to read books that have been written about classical education such as *Norms and Nobility*, *Poetic Knowledge* and *The Liberal Arts Tradition: A Philosophy of Christian Classical Education*, just to name a few. All participants would read the same book and meet once a month online using the Zoom platform. The reading group would be led by a mentor who would lead the discussion. All members of this group would be required to read certain chapters from the same book each month. Books selected would be purchased by each participant at their own cost. The tentative dates are every Thursday evenings from 7pm to 8.30pm, beginning on Thursday July 7 and running for 4 to 6 weeks.

2) **Curriculum Writing Group:** The objective of this group is to create units of work that align the classical education framework with Australian Curriculum standards. These units of work will then be stored and shared to schools that are transitioning to a classical model or presented to government and educational representatives. Examples of aligning the classical education approach include the [University of Dallas K-12 Curriculum Project](#).

3) **Social Media and Marketing Group:** The objective of the Marketing and Social Media focus group will involve becoming familiar with using social media platforms and online tools to generate interest in classical education and the mission of ACES. We anticipate that these platforms will engage new members across social media, digital and print media, newsletters and other marketing outlets. The role is very much about communicating externally and building relationships with potential and current constituents and raising awareness.

4) **Research into Classical Education Group:** The objective of this group is to research existing classical education school models both overseas and in Australia, e.g. charter school models, as well as create reports that will be shown to any existing schools seeking to transition to becoming a liberal arts or classical school. It would include researching school policies that are required in classical schools and issues concerning governance and administration in classical schools.

If any person is interested in joining one of these focus groups, or would like further information, please contact ACES at: [contact@classicaleducation.org.au](mailto:contact@classicaleducation.org.au).

Yours sincerely,

## Articles of Interest

### WHY WE NEED A CLASSICAL RENEWAL: EXPLORING ANDREW KERN'S ARGUMENT FOR CLASSICAL EDUCATION



In this article, Kon Bouzikos summarizes the main points presented by Andrew Kern during his plenary session of the conference. The purpose of classical learning is explained, as well as its essential characteristics. Access the article [here](#).

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### CHRISTOPHER PERRIN: WHY OUR IGNORANCE OF HISTORY IS MAKING FOOLS OF US ALL - AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

This article by Helen Koutroulis explores the views of Dr Perrin on the significance of history for human society, learning and flourishing. She delves into key arguments presented on how history is associated with human wisdom and what the loss of this means for our culture. Access the article [here](#).

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### PAUL MORRISSEY ON THE CENTRALITY OF WISDOM IN EDUCATION

Joe Capuana outlines the talk given by Dr Paul Morrissey on the importance of wisdom as a virtue informing human learning. He notes other key elements of classical schooling, in particular, the need for a "both...and..." approach to thinking that integrates the various disciplines of education (and life) rather than separating them. Access the article [here](#).



In addition, Dr Morrissey sat down with Georgina Downer of the Robert Menzies Institute to record this interesting interview. The discussion centres on what a liberal education looks like, as well as Menzies's own vision for education. Listen to the podcast [here](#).

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## MAN OVERBOARD! (OR WHY OUR SCHOOLS NEED PHILOSOPHY)

This article by Jonathan Hili examines the role philosophy has in contributing to a rounded human education. The writer puts forward a number of points to contend that all schools and curricula, not just those based on classical learning, need to have philosophy as a core subject for young people's wellbeing. Access the article [here](#).



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## CLASSICAL CONVERSATIONS IN AUSTRALIA

Cheree Harvey introduces the excellent project of "Classical Conversations", which seeks to train and equip parents so that they can educate their children classically at home. A must for all homeschoolers! See the article [here](#) for more information.



In this video, Douglas Wilson, one of the pioneers of classical education in the United States, explains what classical education is all about, why it's needed and why a Christian classical education should become the preferred option for families who begin their journey in classical education.

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## CLASSICAL EDUCATION IN QUEENSLAND

Sarah Flynn-O'Dea from *Logos Australia* writes about the recent meetup in Queensland of several passionate classical educators. Involved in this group (apart from Sarah herself) are Diff Crowther and Nathan Gilmour from Toowoomba Christian College (P-12), and Bruce McNeice from Charlotte Mason College. It was an exciting exchange of ideas and

bodes well for the future of liberal learning growth in that state! For further details, please refer to her article [here](#).

Furthermore, you can read Bruce McNeice's article on Charlotte Mason's concept of liberal education [here](#).

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## SCHOOLS MUST RETURN TO A CLASSICAL EDUCATION

This piece by Dr Kevin Donnelly (published in *Spectator Australia*) argues for the necessity of a return to classical learning in this country and highlights some movements in this direction. Quoting Matthew Arnold, Dr Donnelly sees such education as an immersion into "the best that has been thought and said". Access the article [here](#).

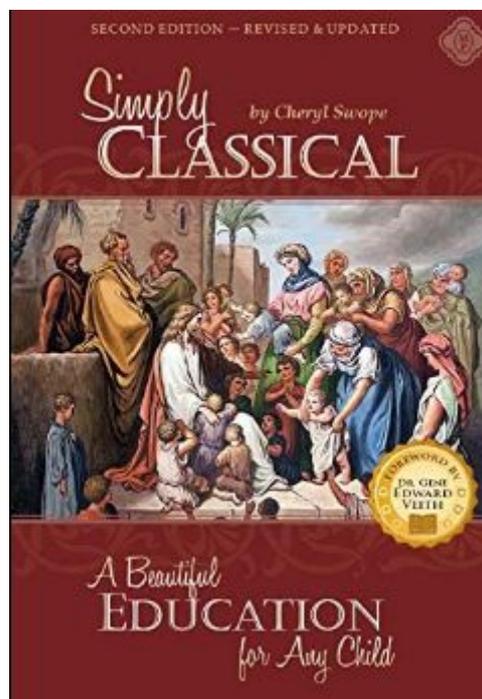
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## THE PURSUIT OF BEAUTY IN EDUCATION

What is the essence and purpose of beauty in classical schools? Hannah Carmichael has penned a series of reflections on this question. Access the article [here](#).

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## Books of Interest



From the publisher:

*This revolutionary book guides parents, teachers, and schools in implementing the beauty, depth, and richness of a classical education with struggling students and students with special needs. Regain confidence to teach any child. Renew your vision of hope for your*

*student with special needs. Increase any child's academic success. Restore any child's love of learning. Receive help navigating the daunting process of obtaining a diagnosis. Learn how to modify existing resources for any child's needs. Find simple strategies any parent or teacher can implement immediately. Appreciate a spiritual context for bringing truth, goodness, and beauty to any child.*

The book and associated resources are available from *Memoria Press* [here](#).

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*"Liberal arts infused with heart and faith..."* That's how Hartford College in Daceyville, Sydney, describes its educational mission. This Catholic boys' school is inspired by the classical tradition, teaching the young men of tomorrow not only the skills and knowledge needed to be flourishing human beings but also the virtues requisite to live fulfilled Christian lives. Visit the school's website to learn more or attend the [upcoming parent information evening on 10 May 2022](#).

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